

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: May 21, 2020
Time: 10:00am
Place: Town Hall
Egremont

Present were Selectboard Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chairwoman Lucinda Vermeulen, Member Mary Brazie, and Finance Committee Chairwoman Laura Allen, Thomas Berkel, Frank Penglase, Mike Bandzierz, Amy Pulver, also Mary McGurn.

The meeting is audio and video recorded.

Laura Allen Chaired the meeting.

The Finance Committee is concerned over the 9.3% increase in the line item budget without the school costs. Insurance costs were looked at for possible savings but as it is a self-insured program there would be little to no savings by increase deductibles. After discussion it was agreed that there were no areas in the budget that could be cut.

Discussion took place about the amounts of money being raised for the Highway Department. The total for Construction and Maintenance and Road Repairs from tax payers is about \$350,000 with another \$150,000 in Chapter 90 state aid. It was agreed that cutting this area would in the long run cost more.

The Finance Committee talked about special articles that might be a high priority, moderator priority and low priority. The concern is that high ticket items might jeopardize other more important items on the warrant.

The Finance Committee ultimately decided to not approve the following articles:

- \$3,400 for Pollinator Graden
- \$4,000 for MACRS
- \$1,000 for restoration of historic books
- \$70,000 to finish the blacktop at the Town Hall complex
- and \$100,000 for road repairs instead of \$150,000.

A final draft of the warrant will be prepared for final review by both the Board and the Committee. Both will review the budget in comparison to the FY 20 budget.

The Finance Committee will meet again on Thursday, May 28 at 10am via zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.20/jointfcbosmay21

The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.